Exchange of letters between the Prime Ministers of India and China

*19. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Ministers of India and China have exchanged letters after Mr. Gandhi's visit to Beijing; if so, what is the gist thereof;

(b) whether the two Prime Ministers have agreed to begin, in measured steps, serious negotiations on the border issue; if so, what are the steps agreed to;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to constitute the Joint Review Committee; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the outcome of Beijing talks and whether Government are satisfied with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The letters emphasise the desire of India and China to make joint efforts for sustained improvement and development of their relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

(b) and (c) It has been agreed by India and China that the boundary question should be settled through peaceful and friendly consultations. Both countries have also agreed to work hard to create a favourable climate and conditions for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to this question. A Joint Working Group on the boundary question will be constituted. The Group will address the question of an overall boundary settlement as well as ensure the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

(d) Government are satisfied that the visit has initiated a new phase of improvement in India-China relations.

Road development target in Gujarat

*20. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 77 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered that feasibility of achieving the targets set forth in the 20-Year Road Development Plan (1981-2001); and

(b) if so, by when the target for National Highways in Road Development Plan for Gujarat is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The targets set-forth in 20-Year Road Development Plan which are recommendatory only are considered while formulating the Five Year Plans keeping in view the availability of resources etc.

(b) It is a bit early to indicate as to when the targets would be achieved.

Crash of a Westland halicopter in Nagaland

1. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Westland helicopter crashed in Nagaland recently;

(b) whether such accidents of Westland helicopter had occurred earlier also;

(c) whether Government have received any protest against the purchase and use of this helicopter; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION